

97-A37

WET/R

Richard L. Elliott
Regional Manager
Department of Fish and Game
601 Locust Street
Redding, CA 96001

Dear Mr. Elliott:

Thank you for your August 15, 1997 comments on the August 7, 1997 draft report "CALFED Water Quality Program Component Report". In the report, copper effects in the Sacramento River were chosen as an example to illustrate the concept that, in general, much remains to be known about toxicity mechanisms in tributaries to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Estuary. A better example could have been used and, in fact, the Department has suggested one or better choices that we intend to adopt instead. While we continue to believe much is yet to be learned about toxicity problems in Delta tributaries, there was not an intention to suggest that there is weakness in the linkage between the presence of copper in the upper Sacramento River and toxicity to aquatic organisms that inhabit affected streams. On the contrary, we fully agree there is a very long history and well documented history of cause and effect.

The purpose of this draft report was to provide our Water Quality Technical Group with information on the development of the water quality program to date. It was not intended that the document be finalized. Instead, your comments and those of other reviewers will be embodied in the water quality technical appendix to the CALFED Programmatic EIR/EIS that is under preparation. We look forward to working with your staff to produce an adequate technical appendix, and appreciate your efforts to assist us.

Sincerely,

Rick Woodard

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